



## NR 854 Water Supply Service Area Plans April 2013

Wisconsin law requires a statewide water supply service area planning process for public water supply systems. The goal of the planning process is to help sustainably manage the state's waters to provide an adequate quantity and quality of water to customers, to prepare for increasing demands on the state's groundwater and surface water resources, and to protect springs, streams, wetlands and other natural features. The law requires that communities assess the quantity and quality of available water supply through a practical planning process to ensure dependable, safe, and cost-effective water delivery to residents, businesses and industries in Wisconsin.

The Department is currently incorporating public comments into the final rule. This fact sheet briefly summarizes the purpose and key elements of the proposed rule. Additional information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/greatlakes/rules.html>.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RULE?

The purpose of the rule is to establish procedures and requirements for public water supply systems to follow when preparing water supply service area plans. The rule establishes a process over a 20-year period for public water supply systems to help ensure that those systems sustainably provide an adequate quantity and quality of water to their customers.

### WHO DOES THE RULE IMPACT?

The rule applies statewide and impacts persons operating public water supply systems that serve a population of 10,000 or more and that withdraw water from waters of the state and any person that operates a consecutive water system that receives water from a public water supply system that is required to prepare a plan under this rule. These systems must be covered by an approved water supply service area plan by December 31, 2025. A few public water supply systems will need to prepare a water supply service area plan sooner if they fall into one of the following categories:

- Persons operating a public water supply system that serves a population of 10,000 or more within the Great Lakes basin who request a new or increased water withdrawal must have an approved water supply service area plan to obtain a water use permit.
- Persons operating a public water supply system who request a diversion of water from the Great Lakes basin must have an approved water supply service area plan prior to receiving a diversion approval—regardless of the size of the population served.

#### PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM FACTS.

There are approximately 79 public water supply systems in the state that serve a population of 10,000 or more. This number includes approximately 26 consecutive water systems.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE RULE?

Water supply service area plans must include:

- Information about existing sources of water, infrastructure, population projections and future water demands.
- Identification of water supply alternatives that are based on a cost-effectiveness analysis of regional and individual water supply and conservation alternatives.
- Delineation of a water supply service area to which the public water supply system may provide water.
- An assessment of the environmental impacts of the water supply source alternatives.
- An evaluation of the consistency of the water supply service area plan with existing comprehensive plans and existing wastewater facility plans.
- An opportunity for the public to provide comment on the proposed water supply service area plan.

WHAT IS A CONSECUTIVE WATER SYSTEM?

A consecutive water system is a public water supply system that receives all or some of its water from one or more public water supply systems.

The rule allows for public water supply systems that do not anticipate the need for increased water supply during the twenty-year planning period and consecutive public water supply systems to prepare a simplified plan.

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